the electrification programme in the country, specifically in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that many villages of the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh are still unelectrified; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to electrify these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification is a continuous process and the surveys in this regard for the various areas are conducted by the respective State Governments/State Electricity Boards from time to time. Such surveys are also being conducted by UPSEB in their areas including hill areas of the State.

(c) As per available information, as on 30th November, 1994, out of the 15,117 inhabited villages (1981 census) in the eight hilly dtstricts of Uttar Pradesh 3,513 villages remain to be electrified.

(d) As stated above, Rural Electrification being a continuous process funds for the programme are annually allocated by the Planning Commission for the State as a whole. The district-wise priority is decided by the State Government within the overall allocation for the State, on a year to year basis. For the year 1994-95, the Palnning Commission has allocated Rs. 131 crores for rural electrification works in Uttar Pradesh, including for electrification of 1,111 villages.

भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को विश्व प्रतियोगिता के लिए खोला जाना

131. **श्री कृष्णलाल शर्मा :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत द्वारा अमरीका तथा यूरोपीय संघ के साथ किये गये दो समझौतों में भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को विश्व प्रतियोगिता के लिए खोल दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि भारत वर्तमान में इस विश्व प्रतियोगिता का सामना करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार विश्व प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए भारत को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु क्या उपाय करने का विचार रखती हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी) : (क) संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की कुछ चिंताओं को दूर करने की दृष्टि से भारत ने 3 से शुरू होने वाली 7 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए विभिन्न दरों पर कुछ वस्त्र मदों के लिए बाजारों को सीमित मात्रा में खोलने तथा चरणबद्ध तरीके से शुल्कों के उदारीकरण के प्रति सहमति प्रकट की हैं।

(ख) तथा (ग) चूंकि भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग एक सुदृढ़ औद्योगिक आधार है तथा इसके निर्यात तीव्रता से बढ़ रहे हैं यह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धाओं का सामना करने के लिए तैयार है। फाइबर तथा यार्न में जो तत्काल प्रवेश दिया गया है वह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रूप से प्रतिस्पर्धा कीमतों, पर अपरिष्कृत सामग्री उपलब्ध कराने की नीति के अनुरूप हैं तथापि, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में प्रभावपूर्ण ढंग से भाग लेने के लिए भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार ने अनेक कदम उठाए हैं, जिनमें क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकों, मेलों तथा प्रर्दशनियों में भाग लेने, के लिए निर्यातकों को प्रोत्साहन देना निर्यात उत्पादन के लिए रियायती शुल्क पर पंजीगत वस्तुओं का आयात करना, निर्यात उत्पादन के लि अपरिष्कृत सामग्रियों के शुल्क मुक्त आयात के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था करना, निर्यात साख की बढ़ी हुई उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना आदि शामिल हैं।

Grievances of employees of BIC Mills

132. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation

from the UP Textile Mazdoor Sangh and British India Corporation Ltd. Officers Association regardng grievances of the employees/officers of BIC Mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c) A copy of a representation of BIC Officers Association addressed to the Chairman and Mg. Director of the British India Corporation, as well as a representation of U.P. Textile Mazdoor Sangh have been received in the Ministry of Textiles. The grievances of the officers of the BIC are before the Grievances Redressal Committee and the Board of the BIC. The representation of U.P. Textile Mazdoor Sangh regarding functioning of Lal Imli Branch of the BIC is being looked into.

Price Rise of Cotton candy and yarn

133. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been exorbitant rise in the price of cotton candy and yarn during January and July in 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether it is a fact that the powerloom sector in Tamil Nadu and other States has been severely affected by the rise in prices and whether the Tamil Nadu Government have requested the Central Government to adopt certain measures, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to help the weavers all over the country to tide over the hardship caused by rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) The prices of cotton candy and yarn have increased during this period.

(b) The Powerloom Sector has been maintaining its level of cloth production during this period. The State Government of Tamil Nadu have suggested the following measures to arrest the rise in prices of cotton and cotton yarn:

(i) State Government of Tamil Nadu should be vested with the power to regulate the production, supply, distribution and price of yarn.

(ii) State Government should be empowered to require the mills to produce some minimum quantities of mill's total production of specified qualities and counts of yarn at stipulated prices, for benefit of handlooms, especially.

(iii) Inclusion of yarn under Essential Commodities Act.

(c) Government have taken following steps to arrest rise in price of cotton and cotton yarn:

(i) Stock limits have been prescribed for Indian cotton to be held by traders, ginning and pressing factories/mills and others excluding farmers cultivating cotton.

(ii) Selective Credit Control has been introduced.

(iii) Import of raw cotton has been placed under OGL.

(iv) About 30,000 MTs of Viscose Staple Fibre imports have been permitted duty free.

(v) Dealer of yarn is required to display the opening stock of yarn and the sale price of each count of yarn on every working day.

(vi) Instructions have been issued for strict enforcement of Hank Yarn Obligation Order.